

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please cancel original paragraphs [0032], [0054] and [0055] in the specification, and substitute the following amended paragraphs:

[0032] In an embodiment, block 202 is performed for each switching device of the set of switching devices in a sequential order from a switching device that is nearest to the first endpoint to a switching device that is nearest to the second endpoint. Hence, a systematic hop-by-hop test is performed. For example, workstation ~~102_104~~ first transmits the reference file to gateway 106a, then to router 106b, then to router 106c and so on to gateway 106n.

[0054] The term “machine-readable medium” as used herein refers to any storage medium that participates in providing data that causes a machine to operation in a specific fashion. In an embodiment implemented using computer system 400, various machine-readable media are involved, for example, in providing instructions to processor 404 for execution. Such a medium may take many forms, including but not limited to, non-volatile media, and volatile media, and ~~transmission~~ media. Non-volatile media includes, for example, optical, magnetic or magneto-optical disks, such as storage device 410. Volatile media includes dynamic memory, such as main memory 406. ~~Transmission media includes coaxial cables, copper wire and fiber optics, including the wires that comprise bus 402. Transmission media can also take the form of acoustic or light waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infra-red data communications.~~

[0055] Common forms of computer-readable media include, for example, a floppy disk, a flexible disk, hard disk, magnetic tape, or any other magnetic medium, a CD-ROM, any other

optical medium, punch_cards, paper_tape, any other physical medium with patterns of holes, a RAM, a PROM, and EPROM, a FLASH-EPROM, any other memory chip or cartridge, ~~a carrier wave as described hereinafter~~, or any other medium from which a computer can read.